

Attachment 4

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes _____
no _____

Property Name: Rocks State Park Inventory Number: HA-2047
Address: 3318 Rocks Chrome Hill Road Historic district: X yes _____ no _____
City: Jarrettsville Zip Code: 21084 County: Harford
USGS Quadrangle(s): Fawn Grove, Jarrettsville
Property Owner: Maryland Department of Natural Resources Tax Account ID Number: N/A
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: _____
Project: MD 24 at Rocks State Park Agency: MD State Highway Administration
Agency Prepared By: Parsons Brinckerhoff
Preparer's Name: Rebecca Crew Date Prepared: 10/29/2009
Documentation is presented in: MIHP Form HA-2047, on file at Maryland Historical Trust
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: _____ Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: _____ yes _____ Listed: _____ yes _____
Site visit by MHT Staff _____ yes _____ X no _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Introduction

R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates (Goodwin) surveyed Rocks State Park in 2004 for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The firm documented the state park as a potential historic district on a Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form, considering all the historic built resources pre-dating 1960 within the park's boundaries. Goodwin identified two buildings and nine sites within Rocks State Park that pre-dated 1960 and the establishment of the park in 1951. Twenty additional buildings and structures within the park were not considered potential resources at that time, as they post-dated 1960. Both pre-1960 buildings, the Leopold House (former Leyboldt House) (MIHP # HA-1249) and the Kellog House (former Crowther House) (MIHP # HA-1250), were previously determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Two of the sites, the Rocks of Deer Creek (MIHP # HA-469) and Falling Branch Falls (MIHP # HA-904 and also known as Kilgore Falls) are natural features, while the remaining are archeological. Goodwin determined that the pre-1960 resources of Rocks State Park did not meet the definition to represent any of the four types of cultural landscapes that may qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. (1)

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Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

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MHT Comments: INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. NO DETERMINATIONS
OF ELIGIBILITY HAVE BEEN MADE.

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However, Goodwin did not consider Rocks State Park as a cultural landscape expressing recreational and conservation use as a state park in the mid-twentieth century. The most appropriate context within which to evaluate Rocks State Park is as a cultural landscape. In addition, because it is a conglomeration of several parcels of land, it is appropriate to evaluate the park as a potential rural historic district using the guidelines set forth in National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes. A cultural landscape is a geographic area that includes cultural and natural resources associated with an historic event, activity, person, or group of people. A rural historic landscape can be listed in the National Register as a site or as a district. It is defined as "a geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features." The guidance set forth in the NRHP bulletin titled How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes clearly demonstrates that Rocks State Park would not qualify as a designed landscape. The only designed landscape components within the park boundaries are a few minor roadways and select trails. These few features do not elevate the park to the status of a designed landscape and, therefore, the resource will not be evaluated within that context.

The primary purpose of an MIHP form is to document a property and provide an historic context, but generally, this process does not include a formal Determination of Eligibility. Goodwin's 2004 MIHP form for Rocks State Park provides a thorough history of the property from the contact and settlement period to the present and includes descriptions of the man-made resources that illustrate the following property types: landscape features, industrial, domestic, and agricultural/subsistence. Using these classifications, Goodwin found that Rocks State Park did not meet the definition to represent the four types of cultural landscapes. At the time of their survey in 2003, the majority of the built resources within the park were less than 50 years of age. Currently, many of these resources are now at least 45 years of age. These include the Middle Area Pump House, the Rock Ridge Pavilion, the Rock Ridge Restroom, the Rock Ridge Pump House, the former Nature Center, and the former Concession Building. When considering Rocks State Park as a recreational and conservation landscape, additional components such as natural features, circulation routes, vegetation patterns, and small-scale elements contribute to the historic characteristics of the landscape that express the mid-twentieth century parkland use of the land.

Description

Rocks State Park is comprised of three discontinuous parcels of land totaling 920 acres in Harford County. The largest section is the main Rocks State Park area along MD 24, Rocks Hill Chrome Road, and St. Clair Bridge Road, built around the centerpiece of the Rocks of Deer Creek (MIHP # HA-799), which is a natural rock outcrop formation rising 190 feet above Deer Creek. This formation is part of the topographic feature known as Rock Ridge, and the fabled metamorphosed rocks called the King and Queen Seat are at its summit. This area will be referred to as the Main Rocks Area. The Hidden Valley Natural Area, located at the intersection of Madonna, Telegraph, and Carea Roads, contains approximately 150 acres. The Falling Branch Area at Falling Branch Road near Clermont Mill Road contains 67 acres.

The Main Rocks Area of Rocks State Park is primarily forested with defined recreational use areas. It has three picnic areas; a network of trails (totaling 3.55 miles); maintenance, administration, and other buildings; and parking areas. Common recreational uses include fishing, swimming, tubing, and paddling in Deer Creek and rock climbing and rappelling at the Rocks. Bow-hunting of white-tailed deer is allowed on 120 acres of the park. Rural residences and youth camps surround the park. Please see Goodwin's 2004 MIHP form for detailed descriptions of the property types in Rocks State Park.

According to National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes, 11 characteristics form a classification system for reading the landscape. These characteristics also provide a logical means of describing landscape features within Rocks State Park. The first four characteristics are processes that shape the land, and the last

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seven are components that are evident on the land. Each of these characteristics is detailed below.

Land Use and Activities:

The current land use of Rocks State Park is predominantly recreational and forested, with the forested areas occupying the largest land area. The recreational areas include three distinct picnic areas. Each picnic area has a pavilion, restrooms, playground equipment, picnic table, and grills. The park has several miles of multi-use trails, merging the recreational layer with forested areas. Swimming, tubing, and paddling are recreational uses possible in Deer Creek. Deer Creek is also a stocked put-and-take trout fishing area. Established routes for rock climbing and rappelling are part of the appeal of the King and Queen Seat rock formation. Bow-hunters may use a designated area of the park to hunt white-tailed deer. All these uses allow visitors the opportunity to recreate and appreciate beautiful scenery and wildlife in its natural setting. Additionally, large portions of the park are young forest, rarely accessed by humans. Small percentages of the park's holdings are dedicated to parking and roads, as well as administrative and maintenance uses. These areas are more heavily used, thereby concentrating impacts on the land. Aerial photography shows that some areas within the park boundaries are in agricultural cultivation; however, these areas are not visible from public areas of the park.

A variety of pre-park land uses is evident, mostly through small scale features and structural ruins. Nineteenth-century domestic use is most evident through the extant and NRHP-eligible Leopold House (former Leypoldt House) (MIHP # HA-1249) and the Kellog House (former Crowther House) (MIHP # HA-1250), but also through the stone ruins of house and barn walls. Industrial use of the area for charcoal and iron processing in the nineteenth century is visible through a millrace, retaining walls, charcoal processing locations, and slagheaps. Early twentieth century quarrying is evident through the remnants of a cable-car system used to transport raw materials from a quarry area to the rail cars of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad. The faces of the Rocks outcrop possess drill holes associated with the former cable-car system. The cable system consisted of iron cables connected to winches that were anchored to the surrounding rock. Small cars were connected to the iron cables. The drill holes used to anchor the winches are the only remnant of the cable car system still present. The related railroad use of the area is limited to a single rock abutment, rail grade, and cuts. The use of the site for informal recreation in the nineteenth and early twentieth century is exhibited by names and dates carved on the rock outcropping by visitors from as early as the mid-nineteenth century. The written record tells of the Rocks of Deer Creek as a popular picnic destination during the nineteenth century, and this popularity expanded with the construction of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad.

Patterns of Spatial Organization:

Spatial organization is predominantly based on natural forms, as Deer Creek forms a gorge where roads could be built, thus shaping the original development of the area. The piecemeal acquisition of land for the park depended upon the willingness of former landowners to sell. When the park was established, trails were built to provide hiking, and most of the trails lead to the King and Queen Seat rock formation at the top of Rock Ridge. The three picnic areas are located far enough apart to be considered separate entities, each accessible from paved roads.

Response to the Natural Environment:

The natural environment plays an important role in the landscape of Rocks State Park, and park-planning efforts responded directly to these natural features. Rock Ridge is formed by white conglomeratic quartzite sandstone, forming a band 4 miles long and 0.25 to 0.5 miles wide. The juncture of Rock Ridge and Deer Creek forms the exposed "Rocks of Deer Creek," which, capped by the natural metamorphosed rocks called the King and Queen Seat, rise 190 feet above the creek. The Rocks of Deer Creek are "fine-grained siliceous sandstone and quartz conglomerate that have been metamorphosed or mineralogically altered under great

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pressure and have, in consequence, been thoroughly impregnated with a secondary deposit of silica." (2) The rocks include the following minerals: muscovite (located in continuous wavy membranes), blue cyanite (in large radiating tufts), chlorite, magnetite and tourmaline, garnet, and rutile. (3) The unyielding qualities of the quartzite and quartz conglomerate are responsible for the rock towers and turbulent channel where Deer Creek crosses the ridge at "The Rocks." (4)

Pre-park land use was also dependent upon the natural environment and its resources. The natural topography affected the location of circulation routes and settlement. Because Rock Ridge is so steep, the logical placement of roads was along the banks of Deer Creek. When built, the railroad also ran through the gorge rather than over the difficult terrain. Recorded historic archeological sites within the park boundaries are often close to Deer Creek. The mineral makeup of the area allowed for charcoal production and quarrying, and Deer Creek powered mills. Resource extraction characterizes the pre-park industrial use of this area.

Although not useful for settlement or resource extraction, the Rocks of Deer Creek had a leisure and commercial use prior to park development. The natural formations are impressive enough that they became a leisure destination in the nineteenth century, resulting in an accompanying general store, hotel, and train station to serve the tourists. The acquisition of these land features by the State of Maryland reflected an intention to conserve the natural environment for its scenic beauty and to provide access to Deer Creek for various forms of recreation (initially fishing and swimming). Land acquisition on the east side of Deer Creek was necessary to protect the undeveloped view from the King and Queen Seat rock formation.

Cultural Traditions:

According to folklore tradition, the Susquehannocks used the King and Queen Seat rock formation for council meetings and ceremonial purposes. Folklore further suggests that the formation served as the customary thrones for the supreme chief of the Deer Creek confederated Susquehannock villages and his wife, giving the rock formation its name. Thomas Wysong's 1880 publication *The Rocks of Deer Creek, Harford County, Maryland: Their Legends and History* includes stories involving the King and Queen Seat rock formation as well as Falling Branch Falls. However, additional research by the Cultural Resources staff of the Maryland State Highway Administration was unable to verify reported Susquehannock utilization of the King and Queen Seat Rocks. (5) Reviews of ethnographic and archeological records could find no additional evidence of cultural connection to the Susquehannock. Based on the completed research, it does not appear that there is sufficient evidence of traditional cultural association with the King and Queen Seat for them to be considered Traditional Cultural Properties.

Circulation Networks:

The primary circulation patterns in Rocks State Park build upon the extant state and county roads that pre-date the park's establishment. The Maryland State Roads Commission relocated MD 24, also known as Rocks Road, to its current alignment in 1934, generally following its older route through the Deer Creek gorge, as shown on the 1878 Martenet Map of Harford County. MD 24 runs north and south along the eastern part of the park, from south of Sharon Road to north of Rocks Station Road. It parallels Deer Creek's path for its route through the park, with the exception of the northernmost section. St. Clair Bridge Road follows Deer Creek's path through the park west from the MD 24 Bridge over Deer Creek. Rocks Chrome Hill Road, which extends west from MD 24 south of the Rocks, dates from at least the mid-nineteenth century, as both the Kellog House (c. 1850) and the Leopold House (c. 1810) face this road. Rocks Station Road, leading southeast from MD 24, provides some access to the eastern side of the park where the former railroad ran.

The abandoned Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad right-of-way is contained in Rocks State Park, but it is not noted on current park maps. The railroad bed associated with the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad (alternately referred to as the Ma & Pa Railroad) passes through the eastern section of Rocks State Park, crossing Deer Creek and following a route along the east bank of the creek. This rail line was originally built between 1880 and 1882 as a narrow gauge line and was later upgraded in 1900 to a standard gauge line. The line moved freight, mail, and passengers between York, Pennsylvania, and Baltimore, Maryland, until it

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was abandoned in 1958. (6) The tracks and rail were removed from the rail bed in 1958 at the close of operations. The stone abutments where the railroad crossed Deer Creek (Ma & Pa Railroad Bridge Abutments, MIHP #HA-29), the rail grade, and associated cuts of the bed remain within the park boundary.

Drill holes associated with a cable-car system are also located on rock faces on the Rocks of Deer Creek outcrop. This cable system consisted of iron cables connected to winches that were anchored to the surrounding rock. Small cars were connected to the iron cables and were used to transport raw materials from a quarry area to rail cars at the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Preston family owned land on both sides of Deer Creek, living on one side and owning a mill on the other. Possible remnants of the historic Preston's Ford are just south of Cherry Hill Road. The ford would have been used to cross Deer Creek prior to the construction of the Cherry Hill Bridge between 1885 and 1900. (7) The only portions of the ford that remain include three submerged log cribs and one log crib protruding from the stream bank. Other remnants of the ford were likely destroyed during past flood events.

A road extending southeast from St. Clair Bridge Road provides access to the Rock Ridge Picnic Area. It was built purposefully for the park. The 0.4 mile Red Trail leads from the Rock Ridge Picnic Area to the King and Queen Seat rock formation. Other trails circulate throughout the park for the pursuit of hiking and enjoyment of nature. Deer Creek is used for circulation by fishers (generally wading upstream) and by paddlers and tubers (generally traveling downstream).

The two smaller areas of the park are several miles from the Main Rocks Area. They are accessible by private vehicle over state and county roads. Falling Branch Area has a parking area along Falling Branch Road and a main trail leading to the waterfall. The Hidden Valley Natural Area has a small parking area. One trail runs through this natural area, but the general circulation pattern is by fishers from the parking area to Deer Creek.

Boundary Demarcations:

The legal boundaries of Rocks State Park are marked by fences. Within the park, boundary demarcations include large boulders placed at points along MD 24 to serve as guardrails and to prevent parking along the road. Contact stations at the entrance of each of the picnic areas serve as a signal to pay the day-use fee. Deer Creek itself is a natural demarcation form. Collectively, these demarcations define Rocks State Park.

Vegetation Related to Land Use:

As a state park, vegetation is primarily forested with evergreen and deciduous trees. Mowed areas of grass are located within the picnic areas, but most of these are also shaded by trees. Ornamental plantings are present at Hills Grove and Wilson's Picnic areas.

Buildings, Structures, and Objects:

Rocks State Park includes two nineteenth-century stone houses, three pump houses, three pavilions, two restroom buildings, one comfort station building, three contact stations, one radio shed, one barbecue shelter, one former nature center, one former concession building, one c. 1965 house, one c. 1972 house and garage, and one office/shop. Except for the nineteenth-century stone houses, the buildings were built between 1960 and 1997. Structures at Rocks State Park include drainage pipes and culverts under MD 24.

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Clusters:

Each of the three picnic areas within Rocks State Park can be considered a cluster. Each contains a contact station, parking, a pavilion, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, and playground equipment. Other clusters are the parking areas along Deer Creek, which generally contain information kiosks, guardrails, and directional signage.

Archeological Resources:

Rocks State Park includes several known archeological resources: the Isaac Jones Mill/Ruins (MIHP # HA-905) at Falling Branch, John Stewart's Barnyard Wall (MIHP # HA-502) at Hidden Valley, the LaGrange Furnace/Iron Works in the Main Rocks Area, and various stone walls and ruins. In 2009, Goodwin conducted a Phase I Survey that identified a number of additional archeological resources. These archeological sites are not included on the maps in the current document due to concerns related to archeological site protection (accordance with Maryland Historical Trust procedures the public release of archeological site locations).

The Rogers House/Ramsay General Store Site (18HA308) consists of a late nineteenth to early twentieth century artifact scatter. The site measures approximately 30 meters by 20 meters (98.4 feet by 65.6 feet) in size. Recent excavations recovered historic artifacts, primarily consisting of domestic and architectural items including window glass, bottle glass, and wire nail fragments. All artifacts were recovered from a mixed fill context. (8) The site contains a complete lack of vertical and horizontal integrity caused by demolition and construction activities in the 1960s. Due to these disturbances and the type and mixed context of artifacts recovered, the Rogers House/Ramsay General Store Site is recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register.

Site 18HA309 consists of a historic domestic occupation that included a partial concrete dwelling foundation, a possible outbuilding remnant, and a historic scatter of late nineteenth to early twentieth century artifacts. The site measures approximately 30 meters by 30 meters (98.4 feet by 98.4 feet) in size. The southern wall is a partial poured concrete foundation measuring 5.9 meters (19.5 feet) long with a width of 15.2 centimeters (6 inches) and is extant above ground. The east and west walls are not visible and the north wall is missing. The remnants of a cinder block chimney are within the northeastern corner of the site. A rectangular hole located 20 meters (65.6 feet) to the south of the foundation is a possible apple house or root cellar outbuilding. Historic artifacts recovered consisted primarily of kitchen and architectural items. (9) All of the artifacts recovered ranged in age from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. Artifacts were recovered on the surface or within the top A-horizon, reflecting an early twentieth century occupation or activity area. No intact sub-surface features were identified within the site area during testing. Site 18HA309 is recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register.

Site 18HA310 consisted of a historic stone foundation, depression, concrete well shaft, and associated late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century historic artifacts deposits. The site measured approximately 95 meters (312 feet) by 34 meters (111.5 feet) in size, containing a primary structure and outbuilding. The primary structure had a partial rubble-laid fieldstone foundation cut into the adjacent hillside. The structure's only remaining wall section measures 1.5 meters (5 feet) high and 61 centimeters (2 feet) thick, although a concrete well liner, steps, and trash dump are extant. Remnants of the outbuilding consist of a bowl-shaped depression located 53 meters (85.3 feet) north of the primary structure. Disturbances due to grading and road construction activities are present throughout the site area. (10)

Historic artifacts recovered from Site 18HA310 are primarily domestic in nature and include bottle glass and ceramics. The ceramic types present consisted of whiteware, red and white-bodied earthenware, stoneware, and pearlware. Architectural items recovered included principally window glass and machine-cut nails. All of the artifacts recovered ranged in age from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. Historic artifacts were recovered exclusively from the surface and upper soil profile and

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were temporally mixed. (11) Grading and roadway construction at the site has disturbed the layers of archeological features at this site. No intact sub-surface features were identified within the site area during testing. Due to the disturbances present and the lack of site integrity, Site 18HA310 is recommended not eligible for listing on the National Register.

Small-scale Elements:

Site furnishings are contemporary, including park benches, signage at park entrances, informational kiosks at parking areas, picnic tables, and grills. Wood benches and a screen form the Rock Ridge Amphitheater. Along Deer Creek, footbridges and wooden steps provide access to the creek. A mill stone is placed as art or artifact along the sidewalk from the parking lot to the restroom at Wilson's Picnic Area.

Historic Context

While the history of the Rocks at Deer Creek is colorful and can be traced through historical documents to the eighteenth century, the history of Rocks State Park is limited to the mid-twentieth century after the park was established in 1951. Events in the establishment and development of the Rocks State Park occurred during the 1950s and 1960s.

Pre-park History

Rocks State Park is centered around the "High and Wonderful Rocks of Deer Creek," the natural formation surveyed as 23 acres in 1798 and patented to Henry Myers in 1799. In 1817, John Clendenen acquired the property and throughout the nineteenth century, the Rocks were a popular destination for picnics and outings, as described in Booth Family letters, as well as published accounts of the annual Harvest Home Picnic that attracted farmers from Baltimore, York, and Harford Counties. (12) In 1879, Thomas Wysong published *The Rocks of Deer Creek, Harford County, Maryland: Their Legends and History*, recording and elaborating upon traditional stories of the Rocks.

In December 1883, the Maryland Central Railway completed the gap between Bel Air (Maryland) and Delta (Pennsylvania), connecting the cities of Baltimore, Maryland, and York, Pennsylvania. The Rocks of Deer Creek became a possible day-trip excursion, as the trains made two stops at the Rocks Station. (13) The railway became the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad in 1901 and service continued until 1958, after the establishment of Rocks State Park.

Park History

The Maryland State Parks Department began its efforts of forest conservation in the early twentieth century, with the 1906 establishment of the Board of Forestry. By 1940, the Maryland Department of Planning had identified the Rocks at Deer Creek as a scenic resource with swimming and other recreational opportunities that contained several thousand affordable acres that could be acquired for establishment of a park called Deer Creek Valley. (14) In 1941, the new state agency of the Maryland Department of State Forests and Parks resulted from the recognition that state forests were being used for recreational purposes. Although World War II postponed land acquisition at the Rocks, following the war, public demand for outdoor recreational opportunities increased. (15) In 1951, the Maryland Department of Forests and Parks began acquiring property for Rocks State Park. Early names for the park were Deer Creek State Park, the Rocks Recreation Reserve, and the Rocks Geological Reserve, signifying the importance of both the geologic value of the Rocks and the recreational value of the creek.

As described in Goodwin's 2004 MIHP form, the park began with a 2-acre purchase from Woodrow and Bessie Ayers in September 1951. By the following year, the Maryland Department of Forests and Parks owned 82 acres of Rocks parkland. By

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August 1957, the Rocks property had grown to 202 acres. By 1966, it had obtained 269 acres out of a proposed 720. By the end of the decade, the park had grown to 483 acres, and by the end of the 1970s, it had 842 acres, including 150 acres that became Hidden Valley Natural Area. Eleven acres were added in the 1980s, and in the 1990s, the Falling Branch Area was acquired, resulting in the current park size of approximately 920 acres. (16) This piecemeal acquisition was influenced by the availability of funds designated by the state and by the willingness of former landowners to sell.

The first park-purpose-built buildings at Rocks State Park were not constructed until 1960. The Rock Ridge picnic area development and construction of the nature center, concession building, and staff housing, occurred between 1960 and 1964. The development included a pavilion, restrooms, a playground, maintenance buildings, and a road to access the summit and designated parking areas.

The development of Rock Ridge pre-dated the 1964 arrival of Spencer Ellis, a trained landscape architect, as Director of the Maryland Department of Forests and Parks. Other aspects of the park's development may be linked to Ellis, as he hired park planners to create the 1966 Master Plan for Outdoor Recreation: 1967-1976, which called for additional facilities for parks and emphasized automobile access and accommodation. (17)

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the state's land conservation program, Program Open Space, was established in 1969. At that time, the Maryland Park Service became the agency managing the state's parks. (18) The 1972 construction of housing for park rangers and the office/shop relate to the increased state park budget. The 1976 acquisition of Hidden Valley Natural Area and the 1990s acquisition of the Falling Branch Area are a result of Program Open Space and the efforts of local land trusts and environmental groups. The 1980s construction of the Hills Grove Picnic Area and the 1990s development of the Wilson Picnic Area are the result of further development of the park for recreational purposes.

As part of developing a context within which to evaluate Rocks State Park, consideration was given to the potential influence that groundbreaking federal initiatives may have had on the state park's development. In 1955, the National Park Service began Mission 66 to modernize national parks by the 50th anniversary of the park service in 1966. Its intention was to permit the "wisest possible use, maximum enjoyment for those who use them; and maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources that give them distinction." It specified construction of modern roads, well planned trails, utilities, camp and picnic grounds, and many kinds of structures needed for public use or administration. Mission 66 improvements were to be designed and located to reduce the impact of public use on valuable and destructible features. No direct influence is known between the National Park Service and the development of Rocks State Park, although the general intentions are similar, to balance the enjoyment of park visitors with the protection of resources. In National Parks, Mission 66 manifested most characteristically in Modern visitors centers. At Rocks State Park, the construction of roads, picnic areas, hiking trails, and parking lots worked to balance recreational use with conservation of resources. However, the design elements are not particularly Modern, but rather rustic and traditional. The walls of the former concession building (c. 1962) are a rock veneer, and large rocks were placed strategically to prevent roadside-parking along MD 24 and to create a scenic reference to the name of the park. The gable-roofed picnic pavilion (c. 1962) at Rock Ridge has concrete masonry construction and massive shouldered chimneys. The Rock Ridge Rest Room (c. 1962) has concrete masonry construction, a gable roof, and exposed rafter ends (as does the former concession building). An inlaid triangular pattern in the concrete blocks is a small design element that may reference the Native American associations of the park. The former Nature Center (c. 1962) can be described as mid-century modern with an angular roof and functionally derived floor plan, although it is a weak expression of the style. Thus, the early development of Rocks State Park shares the timeframe and objective of Mission 66, although Rocks State Park does not well-represent the Modern design that is characteristic of Mission 66.

Significance Evaluation

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Rocks State Park is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a cultural landscape or rural historic district. The park is a typical state park of the 1950s and 1960s, similar to those found throughout Maryland and the country. Remnant landscape features that predate the development of the state park do not convey the area's industrial or informal recreational uses in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Individual resources within the park, including the Leopold House (MIHP # HA-1249) and the Kellogg House (MIHP # HA-1250) were previously determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, but these are not closely associated with the park and do not form a cohesive historic district. The Rocks of Deer Creek (MIHP #HA-469) may be individually eligible for the National Register as a natural landmark, but it is outside the scope of this assessment to evaluate this resource in that manner.

Rocks State Park is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A as an example of an industrial landscape. Extant features are all minor in nature and do not convey the early industrial uses. These features include retaining walls, slagheaps, and charcoal processing locations. Mechanical remnants and drill holes on the rock outcrop are small relics of the cable car system that transported material from quarry location to the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad. The remnants of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad, in turn, are exhibited by a rail bed, cuts, and abutments of a single bridge. The denuded landscape associated with earlier charcoal production has been reforested. The overall landscape does not illustrate that of an industrial landscape, and while extant features remain, they are small in nature and do not form a cohesive example of nineteenth-century charcoal production or early twentieth century quarrying activities.

Rocks State Park is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A as an example of a nineteenth-century recreation site. The extant elements that illustrate this use include the railroad bed of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad, which also transported tourists, and inscriptions carved on the surfaces of the Rocks outcrop by nineteenth century visitors, as well as the outcrop itself. However, significant elements that contributed to the use of the area for informal recreation are no longer extant. The Rogers House/Ramsay General Store, where visitors stayed and shopped, is no longer extant and its archeological site has been found to have a complete lack of vertical and horizontal integrity due to the disturbances caused by demolition and construction activities in the 1960s. The Rocks Station, adjacent Ramsey Hotel, and the majority of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad, which brought tourists to the Rocks, have been demolished. Therefore, important features that conveyed the park's passive recreational uses are no longer extant.

Rocks State Park is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A as an example of a rural historic landscape within a state park setting used for conservation and recreation. Although this was the most appropriate manner within which to evaluate the park, it is not significant as a conservation and recreation landscape. In the years following World War II, the nation, including Maryland, established parks, forests, and recreation areas that responded to the increased demand for outdoor recreation. As such, Rocks State Park exhibits the pattern of events and associated park management strategies that are similar to those that have occurred across the Maryland State Park system. The need for Rocks State Park was justified for its recreational use, and the selection of this location was based on scenic beauty, resulting in conservation of a natural resource. However, the modest improvements and visitor amenities built during the post-war period do not indicate that this particular park was intended to exemplify mid-century conservation and recreation efforts in Maryland. The Rocks of Deer Creek (MIHP #HA-469) may have potential importance as a historic (and possibly pre-historic) natural and scenic site. However, they were not evaluated individually as part of this effort.

Rocks State Park is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion B, as historic research and information obtained from the MIHP form indicate that the property does not have significant associations with past or present significant persons who have made specific contributions to society within a regional or national context. Users of the park and landscape may include significant persons, but the association is not directly related to the historic importance of these persons. Similarly, the Rocks have been the source of creative inspiration, but the resulting works are not important enough for their authors to be considered

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

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significant persons in either regional or national context. The characters in the fables Wysong recorded (with self-admitted elaboration and/or fabrication) may have existed, but no documentary evidence supports their existence. American Indian ceremonial use of these rocks remains unknown, and confirmation by modern-day descendants was outside the scope of this evaluation.

Rocks State Park is not eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion C because it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic value; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The park's existing pattern of spatial organization, circulation networks, vegetation related to land use, and response to the natural environment convey the land uses and activities related to its management as a state park since 1951. The distinctive characteristics of mid-twentieth century state parks focus on balancing conservation and recreation and include automobile-centered circulation patterns, recreational and comfort facilities for visitor use, and maintenance and administrative areas for staff use. While Rocks State Park exhibits these characteristics of state park design in the post-World War II period, it does so minimally, lacking new roads that include vistas of the King and Queen Seat rock formation, and including only one picnic area dating from the 1960s and limited hiking trails. No individual designer has been identified with the design of Rocks State Park, as it was developed over several decades and most likely was the result of many different Maryland Park Service employees; therefore, it does not represent the work of a master. While Rocks State Park has aesthetic value, it is primarily derived from pre-existing natural features and cannot be considered of high artistic value; the design of buildings, structures, circulation patterns, and small-scale elements are characterized as functional and developed over a period continuing to the present. The combination of all the landscape components that form Rocks State Park does not create a significant and distinguishable entity. Therefore, Rocks State Park is not eligible under Criterion C.

As an entity, Rocks State Park was not evaluated for listing under Criterion D as part of this assessment.

Endnotes

- (1) R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. 2004. "Rocks State Park." Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) form. On file at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.
- (2) Cleveland Abbe, Jr. "A General Report on the Physiography of Maryland," in Maryland Weather Service, Vol. 1, ed. William Bullock Clark (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1899), 47-48.
- (3) George Huntington Williams, "The Petrography and Structure of the Piedmont Plateau in Maryland," in Bulletin of the Geological Society of America, Vol. 2. (NY: Geological Society of America, 1891), 309.
- (4) Abbe, 135.
- (5) Carol Ebright, "Summary of Research on the King and Queen Seat," On File, Maryland State Highway Administration, 2004.
- (6) Kathryn G. Dixon, Nathan S. Workman, Jennifer L. Evans, and Joshua Roth. Phase I Cultural Resource Investigations for Proposed Improvements to Maryland 24 From South of Stirrup Run to the St. Clair Bridge over Deer Creek, Harford County, Maryland. (Fredrick, Maryland: R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc., 2009).
- (7) Dixon.
- (8) Ibid.
- (9) Ibid.
- (10) Ibid.
- (11) Ibid.
- (12) Dinah Faber, Tour of Booth Family Historic Sites, Historical Society of Harford County, Inc. March 2002, <http://www.harfordhistory.net/boothtour.htm>, accessed 4/28/09.
- (13) George Hilton, The MA & PA: A History of the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad (Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1999), 23.

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Eligibility recommended _____

Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

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(14) 1940 Maryland State Planning Commission publication Maryland Recreation Areas

(15) History of Maryland State Parks, <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/sfpshistory.html>, updated February 1, 2005, accessed May 5, 2009.

(16) Goodwin, Continuation Sheet Number 8, Page 1.

(17) Robert F. Bailey, III. Images of America: Maryland's Forests and Parks: A Century of Progress. (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006), 93.

(18) History of Maryland State Parks, <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/sfpshistory.html>, updated February 1, 2005, accessed May 5, 2009.

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□ Phase I Cultural Resource Investigations for Proposed Improvements to Maryland 24 From South of Stirrup Run to the St. Clair Bridge over Deer Creek, Harford County, Maryland. R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc., Frederick, Maryland, 2009.

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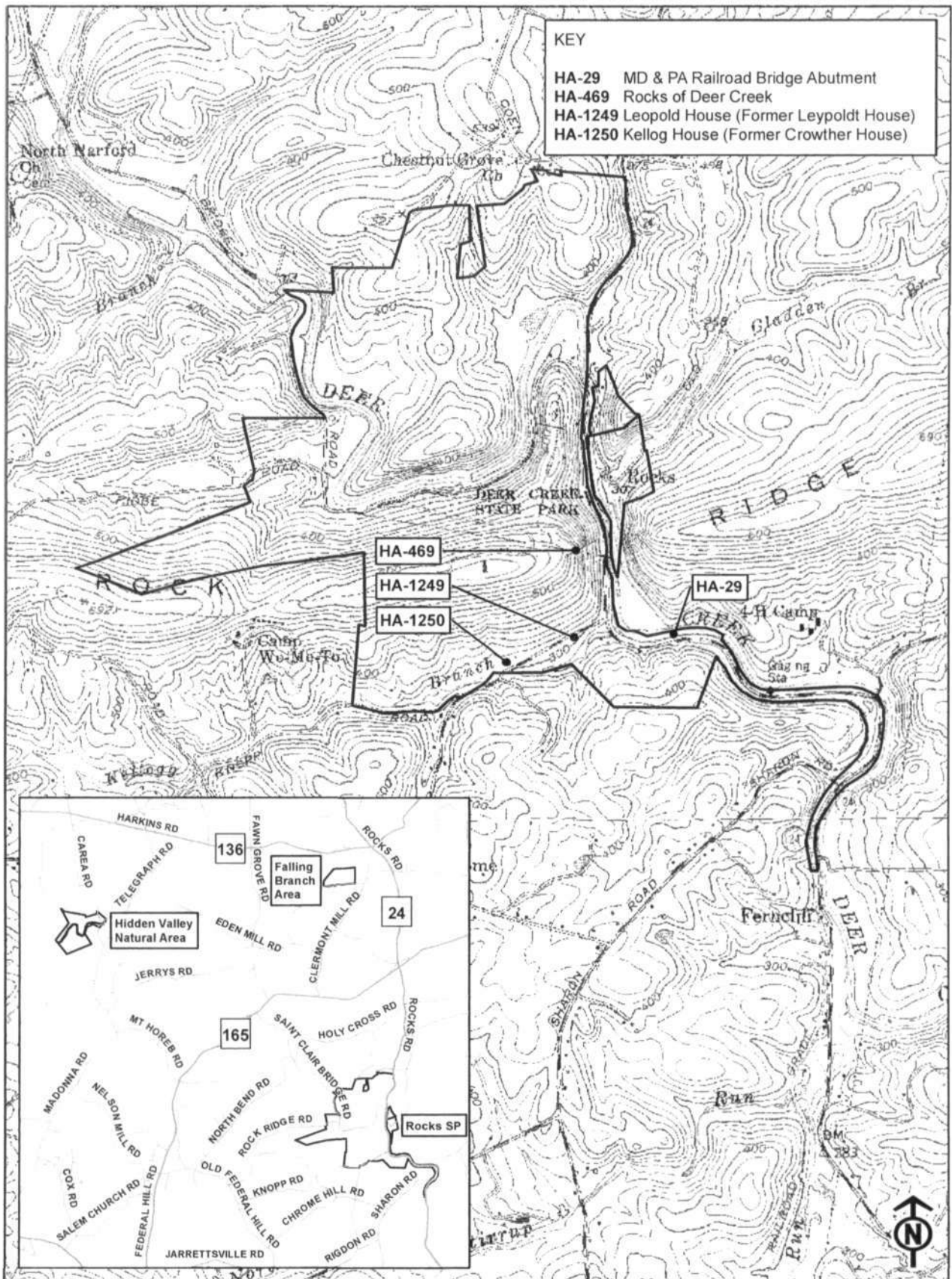
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Date

Rocks State Park HA-2047

USGS Fawn Grove Quad and Jarrettsville Quad

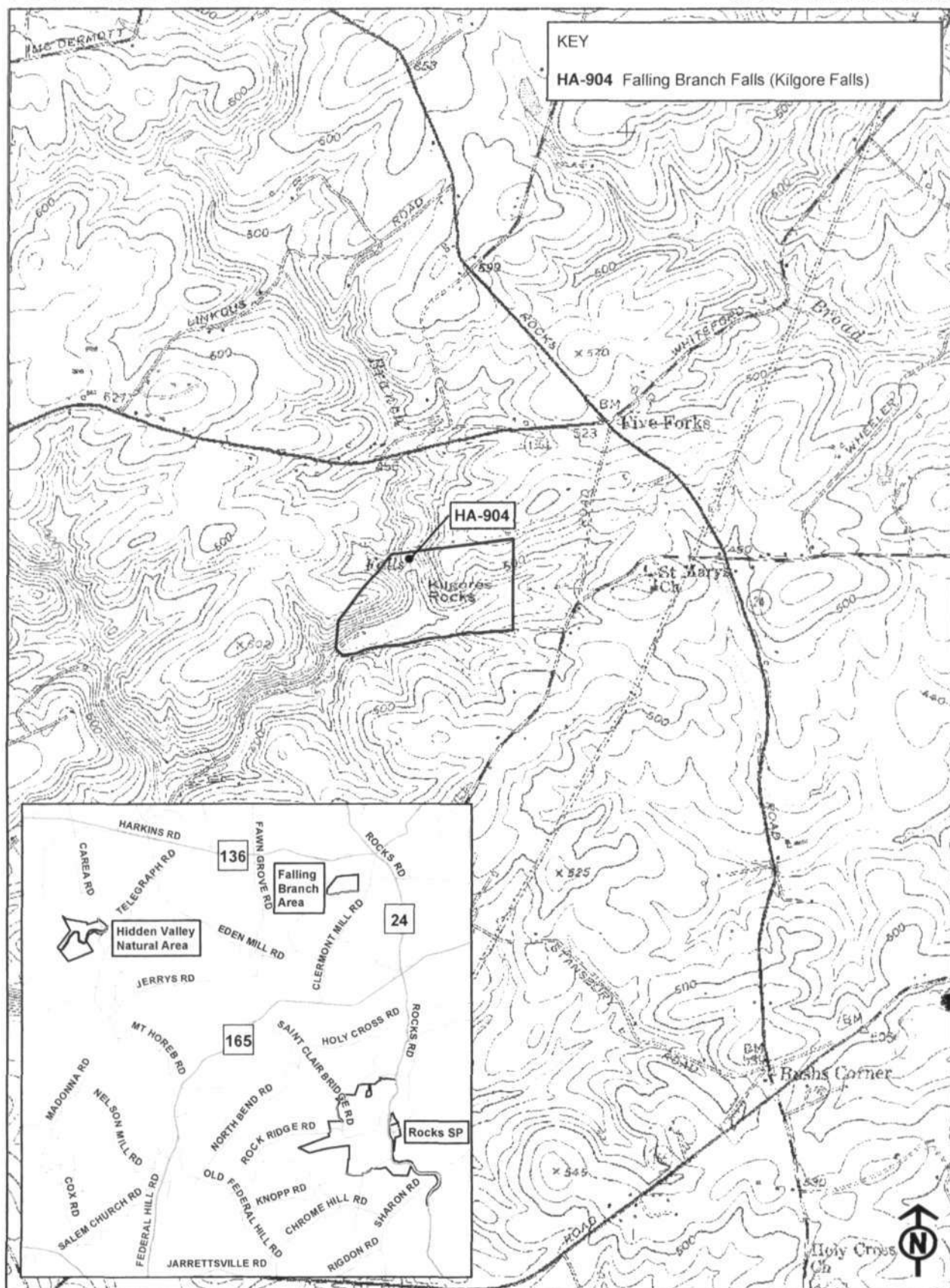


State Park Boundary

0 1,000 2,000 Feet 1:24,000

Falling Branch Area Rocks State Park HA-2047

Falling Branch Area
Rocks State Park
Harford County, MD
USGS Fawn Grove Quad



State Park Boundary

0 1,000 2,000 Feet 1:24,000

Hidden Valley Natural Area
Rocks State Park HA-2047
Harford County, MD

[illegible]

0 1,000 2,000 Feet 1:24,000



MIHP # HA-2047

Rocks State Park

Harford County, Maryland

R. Crew, photographer

May 4, 2009

Negatives Maryland Historical Trust

Facing southwest towards former Concession Building (c. 1964)
on west side of MD 24

1 of 14



MIHP # HA-2047

Rocks State Park

Harford County, Maryland

R. Crew, photographer

May 4, 2009

Negatives, Maryland Historical Trust

Facing ~~Northwest~~ towards former nature center (c. 1962)
on MD 24

2 of 14



HA-2047 Rocks State Park

Harford County, Maryland

R. Crew, photographer

May 4, 2009

Negatives, Maryland Historical Trust

View facing northeast towards Deer Creek &
Former Ward House (c. 1972)

3 of 14



14A-2047 Rocks State Park
Harford County, Maryland

R. Crew, photographer

May 4, 2009, Negatives Mdt Historical Trust

View facing north towards Middle Area Pump House
(c. 1960) on east side of MD 24

4 of 14



HA-2047 Rocks State Park

Hartford County, Maryland

R. Crew, photographer

May 4, 2009; Negatives Md Historical Trust

View facing southeast towards Rock Ridge Pavilion
(c. 1962) and Barbeque Shelter (c. 1983)

5 of 14



HA-2047 Rocks State Park

Hartford County, Maryland

R. Crew, photographer

May 4, 2009

Negatives, MD Historical Trust

View facing west towards Rock Ridge Pump House (c. 1962,
foreground) and Radio Shed (c. 1965, background).

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MHP # HA-2047

Rocks State Park

Hartford co, MD

R. Crew

May 4, 2009

MD SHPO

View Facing east towards Rock Ridge
Restroom (c. 1962).

7 of 14



MHP #1 HA-2047

Rocks State Park

Hartford County, Maryland

R. Crew, photographer

May 4, 2009

Negatives, MD SHPO

View facing southwest towards
Rock Ridge amphitheater

#8 of 14



MIHP # HA-2047

Rocks State Park

Hartford County, Maryland

R. Crew, photographer

May 4, 2007

Negatives, MD SHPO

Views facing South towards Wilson Comfort Station (c. 1997)

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HA-2047
Rocks State Park

Hartford County, Maryland

HA-2047

R. Crew, photographer

May 4, 2009

Negatives, MD SHPO

View facing northeast towards Hills Grove picnic area

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MIHP # HA - 2047

Rocks State Park

Harford County, Maryland

R. Crew, photographer

May 4, 2009

Negatives, MP SHPO

View facing west towards Office/Shop building
on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd. Cc. 1972

#11 of 14



HA-2047

Rocks State Park

Harford County, MD

R. Crew, photographer

May 6, 2009

Negatives, MD SHPO

View facing southeast towards

#12 of 14

Falling Branch Falls (MI
(#HA-904) #HA



HA-2047 Rock State Park

Hartford County, MD

R. Crew, photographer

May 16, 2009

Negatives, MD SHPO

View facing east towards ruins in Falling Branch Area.

13 of 14



HA-2047 Rocks State Park

Harford County, MD

R. Crew, photographer

May 6, 2009

Negatives, MD SH20

View facing west at Hidden Valley Natural Area
parking lot.

#14 of 14